(b) Delhi-Hyderabad is an 'A' route. Tract renewal and maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need and availability of funds. For ensuring the safety and punctuality, track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly whenever required.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Standard Gauge in Andhra Pradesh

1429. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared a proposal to introduce standard gauge in parts of Andhra Pradesh, instead of broad gauge;

(b) if so, the extent of length which would be taken up in the current year for conversion to standard gauge;

(c) whether any routes have been identified in the State;

(d) if so, the details of such routes and the distance thereof; and

(e) the possible date of commencing this conversion work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Free Rail Travel for Farmers

†1430. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide free to and fro rail travel facility to farmers, on the pattern of Railway and other Central and State Government employees;

(b) if so, the deails thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme to provide free rail travel facilities to farmers from one State to others and the metropolitan cities every year, Zone-wise/State-wise?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.